Seirei no Moribito

by Uehashi Nahoko, Futatsugi Saki, & Fujiwara Kamui

Chapter 10

The End

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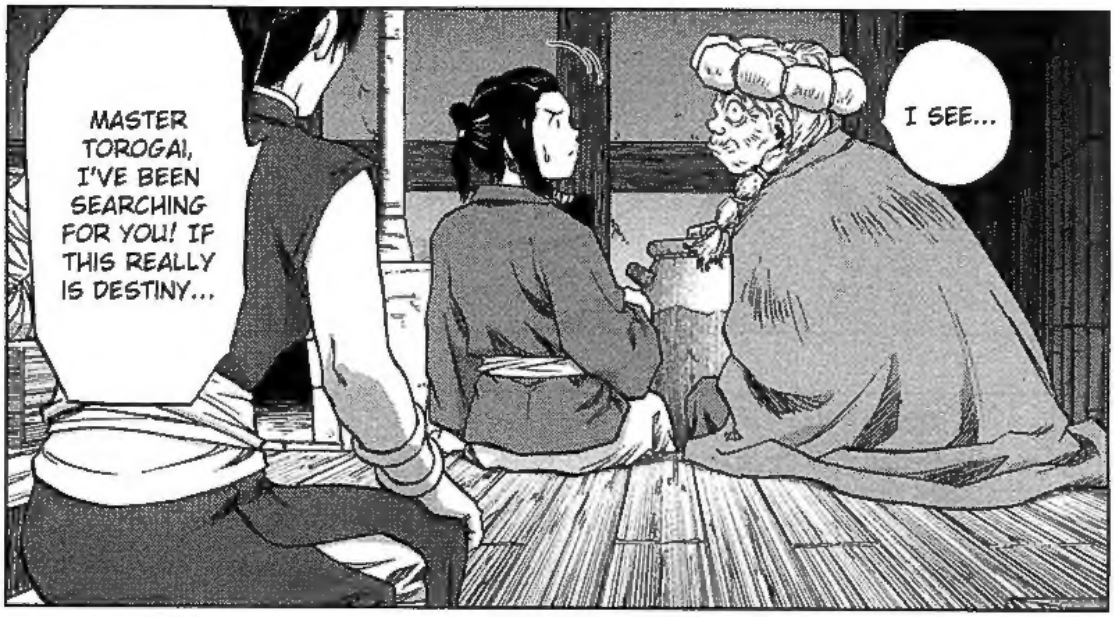
cleaner > Kit & Jeca
typesetter > Kat
qc > Ishitori

CHAPTER 10: THE REUNION WITH TOROGAI

NGRMM
RNGMM

WELL WELL,
I GUESS THIS IS WHAT THEY'D CALL DESTINY, HUH...

WERE YOU ASKED BY THE SECOND EMPRESS TO DO THIS?
YES... IT'S JUST AS YOU'VE GUESSED.


MASTER TOROGAI, I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR YOU! IF THIS REALLY IS DESTINY...
I SEE...

THEN THIS IS ONE OF THOSE RARE TIMES I WOULD ACTUALLY BE THANKING FATE.

!
LET'S SEE!
YOU JUST SAVED ME A LOT OF TROUBLE!
ME TOO!
FLINCH

I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE ANY-THING... JUST SIT STILL...

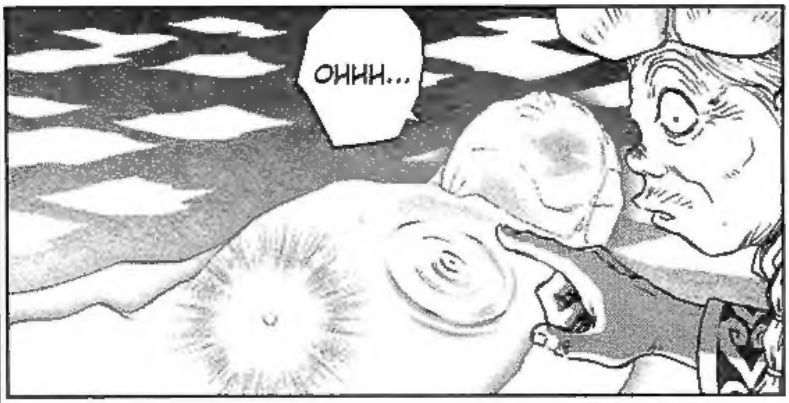
WHIP
!

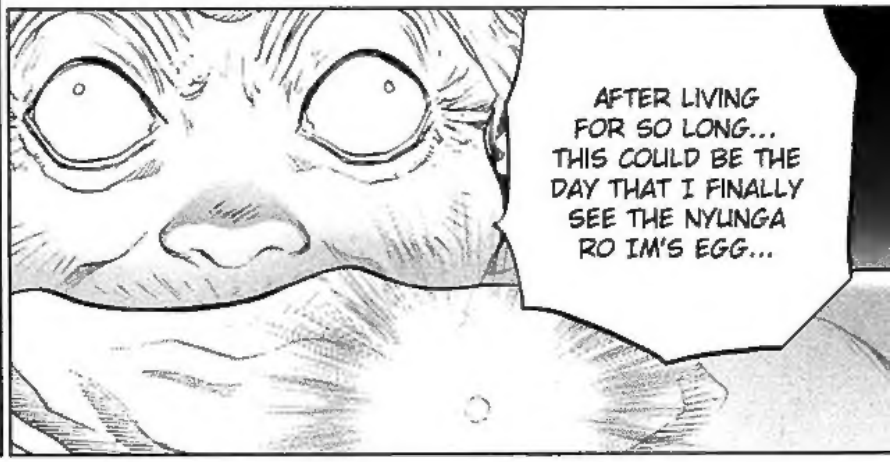
.....

GWAAOOO!

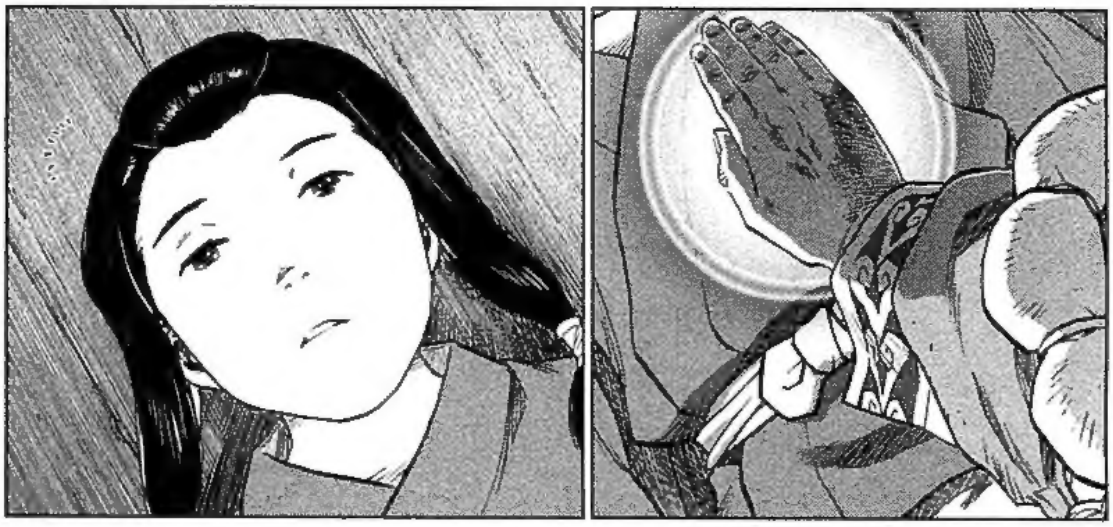
CLATTER
カリカリ
!!
THUMP

WHA?!

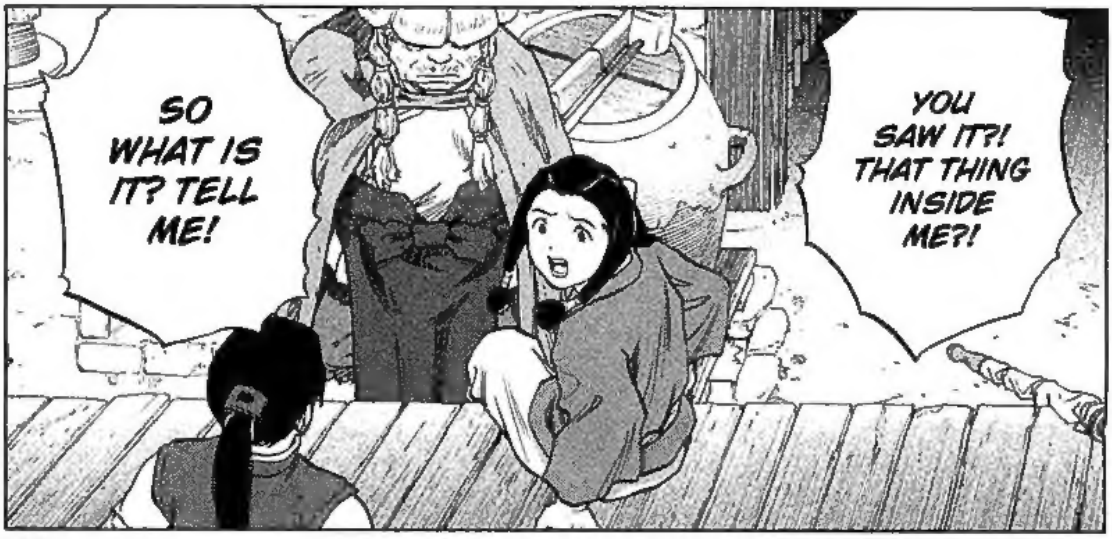

OHHH...

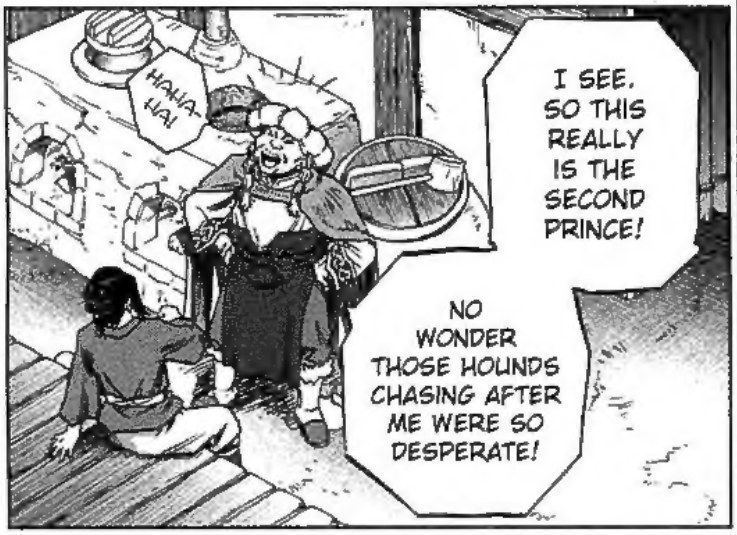

AFTER LIVING FOR SO LONG... THIS COULD BE THE DAY THAT I FINALLY SEE THE NYUNGA RO IM'S EGG...

WHIRR



!
FWIP
THE NYUNGA RO IM'S EGG... THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN IT...


SO WHAT IS IT? TELL ME!
YOU SAW IT?! THAT THING INSIDE ME?!


HAHA-HAH!
I SEE. SO THIS REALLY IS THE SECOND PRINCE!
NO WONDER THOSE HOUNDS CHASING AFTER ME WERE SO DESPERATE!

YOUR BODY IS OF SAGU ...

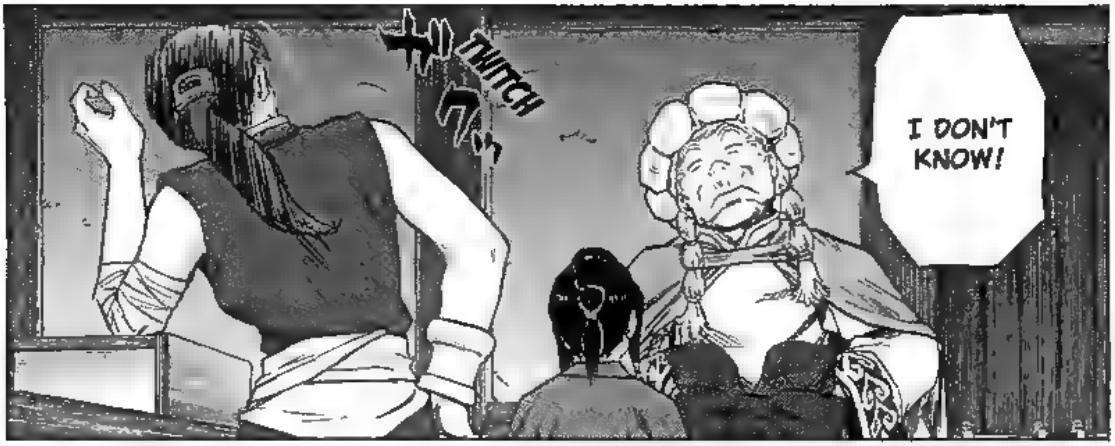
IT'S OF THIS WORLD. THERE'S NO WAY THE EGG WOULD PHYSICALLY BE IN YOUR FLESH.

GYAHAHAHA
!!

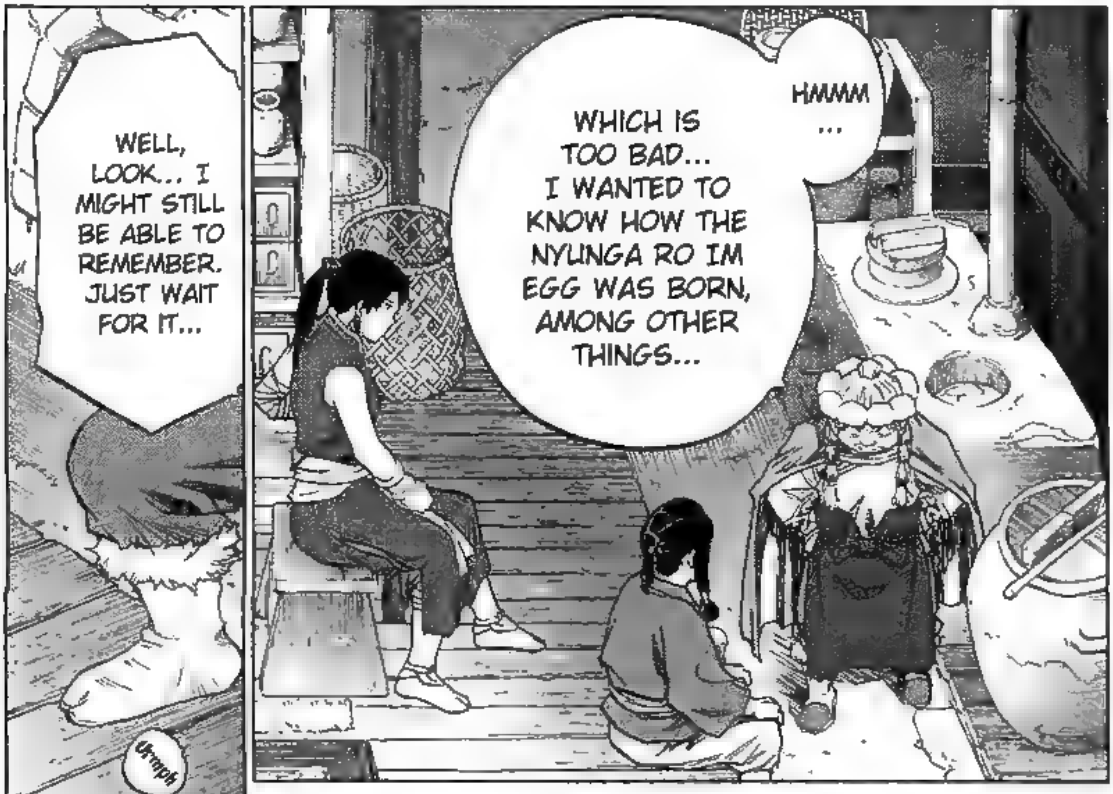
IT'S A SMALL EGG WITH A BLUISH WHITE GLOW... AND LOOKS AS SOFT AS A FISH EGG.
THIS IS ALSO THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN THIS...

I DON'T KNOW... I CAN'T REMEMBER ...
BUT WHY WOULD YOU BE HARBOR-ING THE EGG?
.....

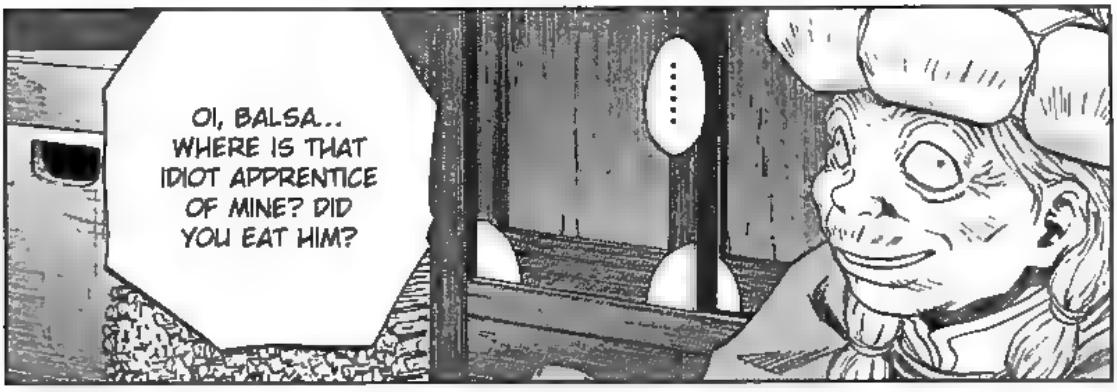
WELL, THAT'S BECAUSE ...
WHY DID THE WATER SPIRIT'S EGG...?
I THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO TELL US IF WE FOUND YOU!


TWITCH
I DON'T KNOW!

THERE ARE THINGS EVEN I DON'T KNOW.


WELL, LOOK... I MIGHT STILL BE ABLE TO REMEMBER. JUST WAIT FOR IT...
Urmph
WHICH IS TOO BAD... I WANTED TO KNOW HOW THE NYUNGA RO IM EGG WAS BORN, AMONG OTHER THINGS...
HMMM ...

URMPH...
AHH...


OI, BALSA... WHERE IS THAT IDIOT APPRENTICE OF MINE? DID YOU EAT HIM?
.....

TANDA IS...
I'M NOT *THAT* HUNGRY...

MASTER! I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU!!

!
WHO'S EATING?

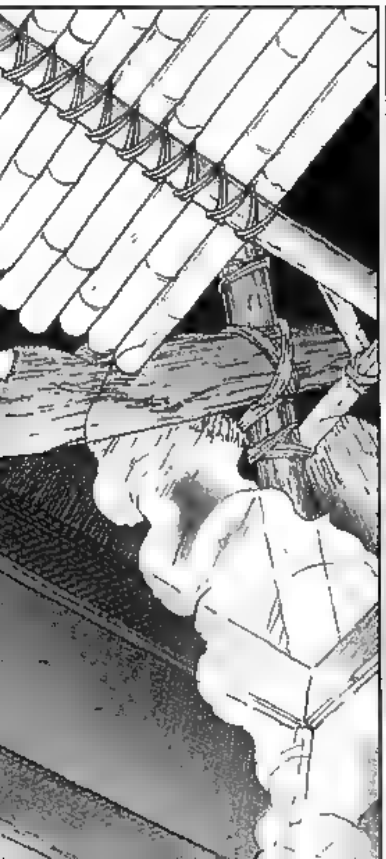
!

I GUESS THE SAYING IS TRUE... WHEN YOU START GOSSIPING ABOUT SOMEONE, THEY SHOW UP.

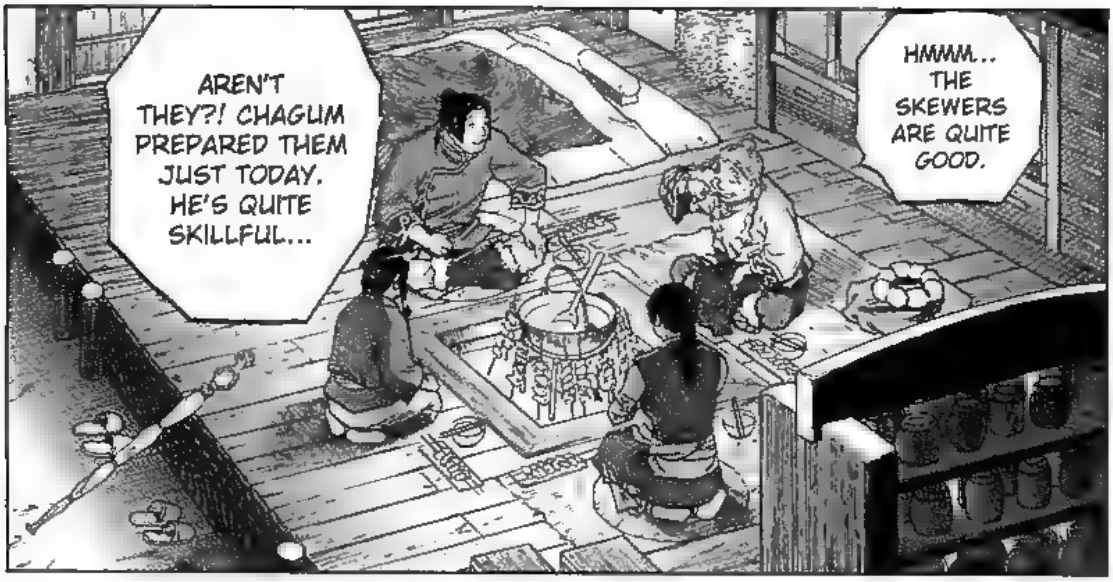
IT'S THAT KIND OF BABBLING THAT WILL GUARANTEE YOU'LL NEVER HAVE A WIFE!
YOU IDIOT!
I HEARD SOME TALK ABOUT HUNGER. WAS THAT YOU, MASTER?

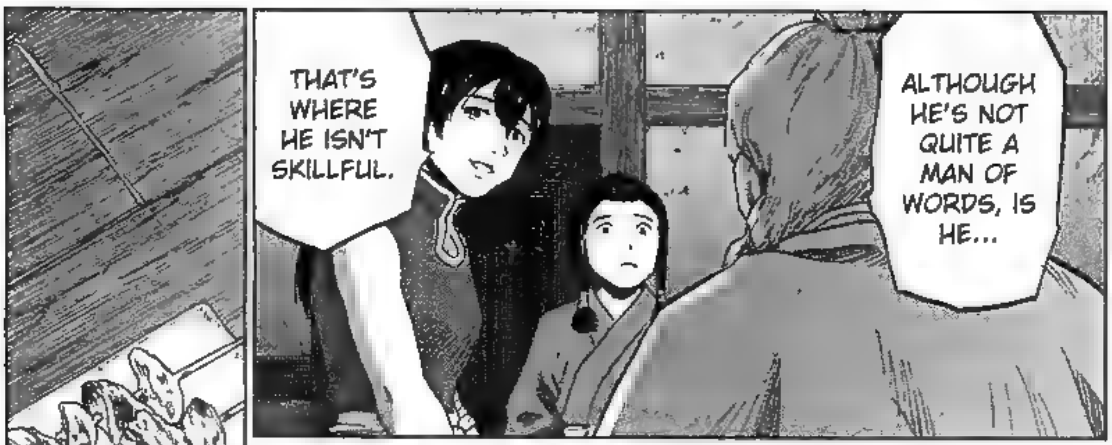
I GOT SOME MUSHROOMS FROM THE MOUNTAIN. WE CAN TALK ABOUT IT OVER STEW.
HUUH ?
I THINK I HAVE BETTER THINGS TO DO RIGHT NOW THAN WORRY ABOUT HAVING A WIFE.

WHAT... AND TO THINK I GAVE UP THE WHITE DEER INN'S VENISON STEW FOR THIS... MUSHROOMS ARE NO GOOD...



COME HELP, CHAGUM.
SO THIS IS ABOUT EATING.
AH... OKAY.


AREN'T THEY?! CHAGUM PREPARED THEM JUST TODAY. HE'S QUITE SKILLFUL...
HMMM... THE SKEWERS ARE QUITE GOOD.

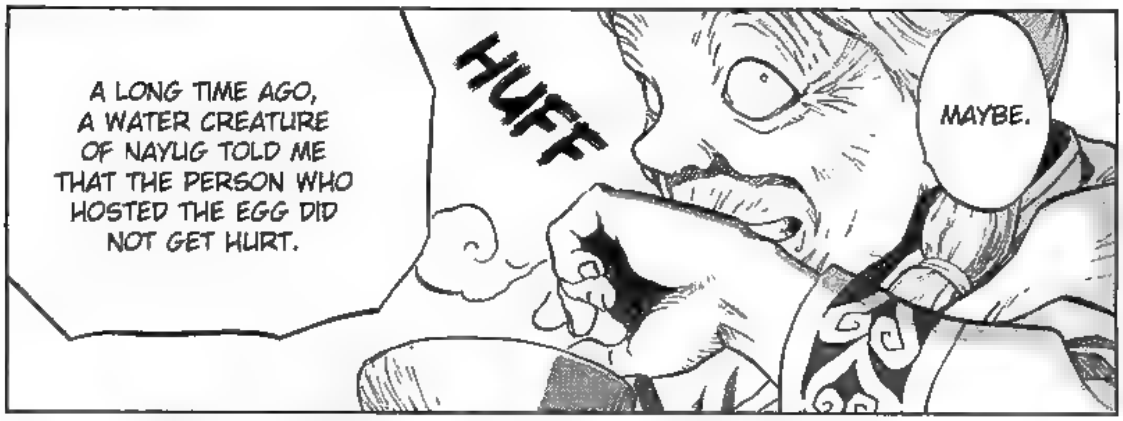

THAT'S WHERE HE ISN'T SKILLFUL.
ALTHOUGH HE'S NOT QUITE A MAN OF WORDS, IS HE...

YES, QUITE A LOT!
SO TANDA, DID YOU FIND OUT ANYTHING FROM YOUR TRIP TO MOUNT YASHIRO?

HMMM ...
THE STORY GOES THAT THE NYUNGA RO IM IS A LIVING SPIRIT WHO LIVES IN THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER AND EXHALES CLOUDS...
WHEN IT BECOMES AN ADULT, IT STOPS BEING ABLE TO MOVE. AFTER A HUNDRED YEARS, RIGHT BEFORE IT DIES, IT WILL LAY AN EGG INSIDE SOMEONE FROM SAGU. AND THEN THAT EGG WILL HAVE TO BE BROUGHT TO THE SEA.
NO... THAT TIME HASN'T COME YET...
SO MAYBE WE SHOULD GO AND BRING THE EGG TO THE SEA RIGHT NOW...
CHAGUM WILL BE MOVING TOWARDS THE WATER...

HE HAS DREAMS OF GOING INTO THE WATER. SURELY THAT'S THE NYUNGA RO IM'S MEMORIES OF ONCE LIVING BENEATH THE WATER, ISN'T IT?
I THINK IT'S HELPING THE NYUNGA RO IM TRY TO ACCLIMATE ITSELF TO THE WATER IN SAGU.
YOU SAID THE WATER WAS THICK, RIGHT? MAYBE WHEN THE EGG MATURES, THAT'S WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO THE WATER IN SAGU.
SSS
THAT ASIDE, I THINK WHEN IT'S TIME, CHAGUM WILL BEGIN SEEING HIMSELF GOING TOWARDS THE SEA ON HIS OWN.

IS IT TRUE THAT I'LL BE SAVED IF WE MANAGE TO PROTECT THE EGG UNTIL IT HATCHES?


A LONG TIME AGO, A WATER CREATURE OF NAYUG TOLD ME THAT THE PERSON WHO HOSTED THE EGG DID NOT GET HURT.
HUFF
MAYBE.

WHEW

BUT IF WE DON'T PROTECT IT, IT WILL BE EATEN BY THE LA LUNGA, WON'T IT? JUST LIKE WHAT HAPPENED A HUNDRED YEARS AGO...

IT DIDN'T LAST FOR 100 YEARS.
WHILE A TERRIBLE DROUGHT REALLY DID HAPPEN,
BUT IT'S ODD...

MASTER! IS THE NYUNGA RO IM REALLY THE CREATURE THAT CREATES THE CLOUDS?

BUT, WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, THE WORLD ISN'T ONLY MADE UP OF THE NAYORO PENINSULA.
THERE ARE THINGS EVEN I DON'T KNOW.

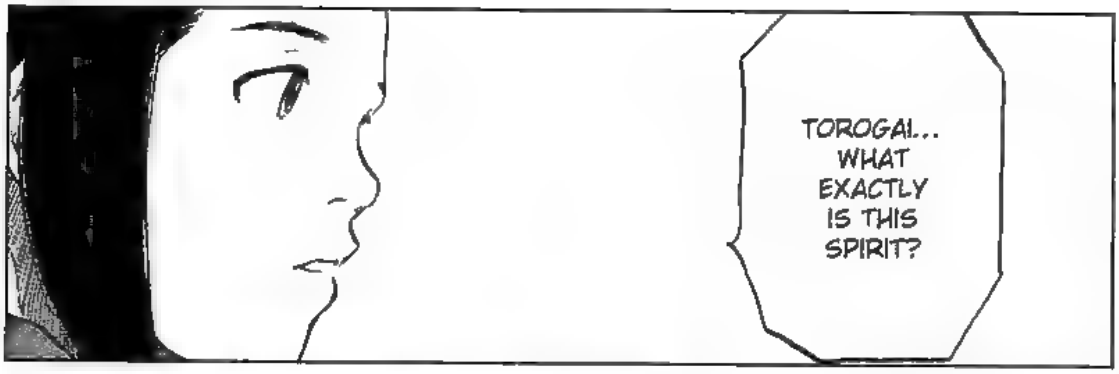
FOOSH
.....
THERE ARE CLOUDS EVERY-WHERE ...
JUST LIKE THERE ARE FISHES, BIRDS, AND ANIMALS THAT ARE BORN THE SAME WAY FROM DIFFERENT EGGS,
AND THERE MAY NOT ONLY BE ONE NYUNGA RO IM.
MAYBE CLOUDS COULD ALSO BE BORN FROM DIFFERENT SPIRITS?

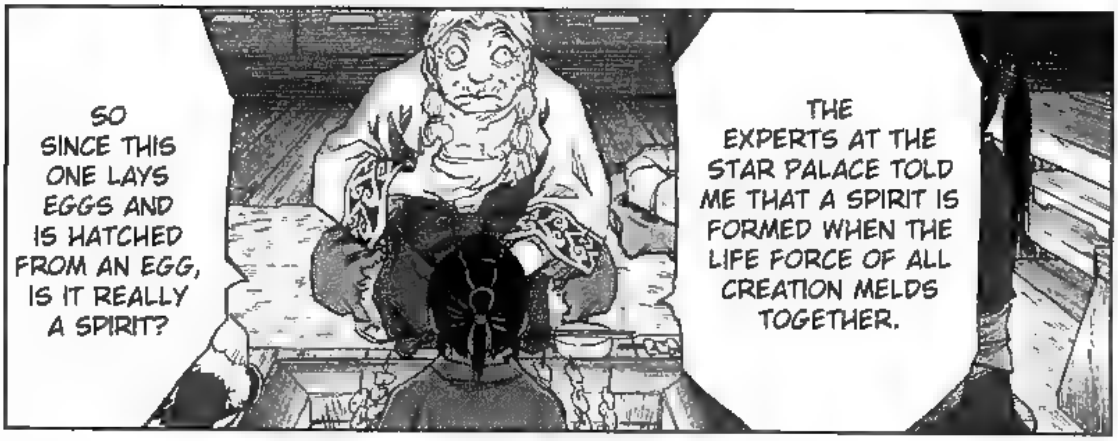
WE HAVE TO PROTECT IT.
THE ONLY THING WE CAN BE SURE OF IS THAT HERE IN THE NAYORO PENINSULA, THERE WILL BE A DROUGHT IF THE EGG DOES NOT SAFELY HATCH.

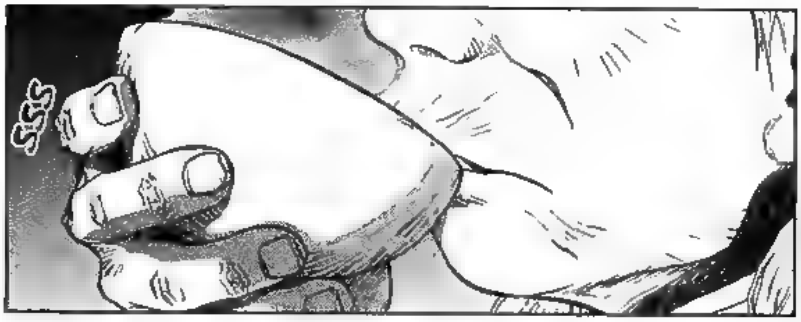
OF COURSE!

IT'S ALSO TO SAVE CHAGUM'S LIFE!
AND IT'S NOT JUST TO PREVENT THE DROUGHT ...

SSSS


TOROGAI... WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS SPIRIT?


SO SINCE THIS ONE LAYS EGGS AND IS HATCHED FROM AN EGG, IS IT REALLY A SPIRIT?
THE EXPERTS AT THE STAR PALACE TOLD ME THAT A SPIRIT IS FORMED WHEN THE LIFE FORCE OF ALL CREATION MELDS TOGETHER.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YOU DO KNOW THAT PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES WHO SPEAK DIFFERENT LANGUAGES HAVE DIFFERENT WAYS OF THINKING, RIGHT?
LISTEN, BOY...

HMPH!
SO THAT'S HOW YOU YOGO PEOPLE SEE IT, HUH...

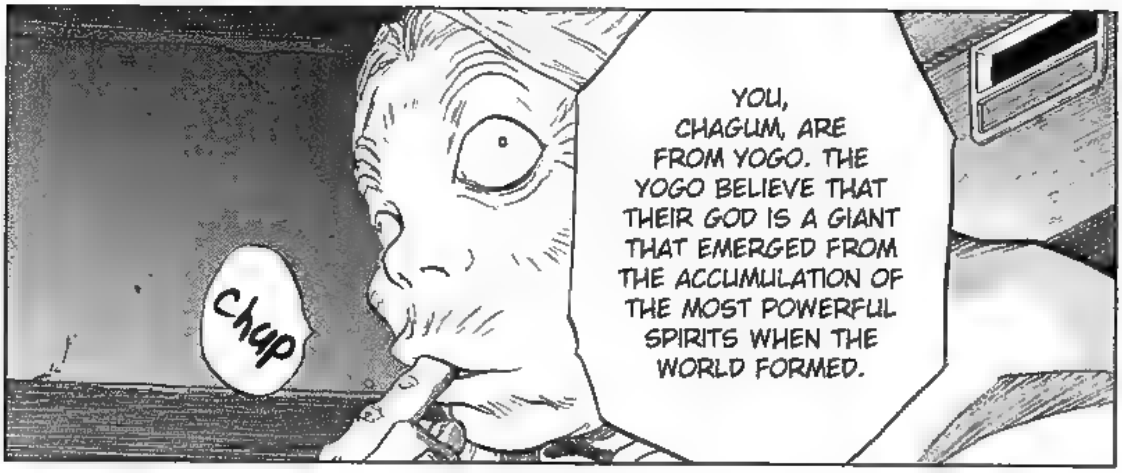
LIKE BALSA, FOR EXAMPLE. SHE'S FROM KANBAL, AND THE PEOPLE THERE BELIEVE THAT THE LIGHTNING IS A GOD, RIGHT BALSA?

FSS

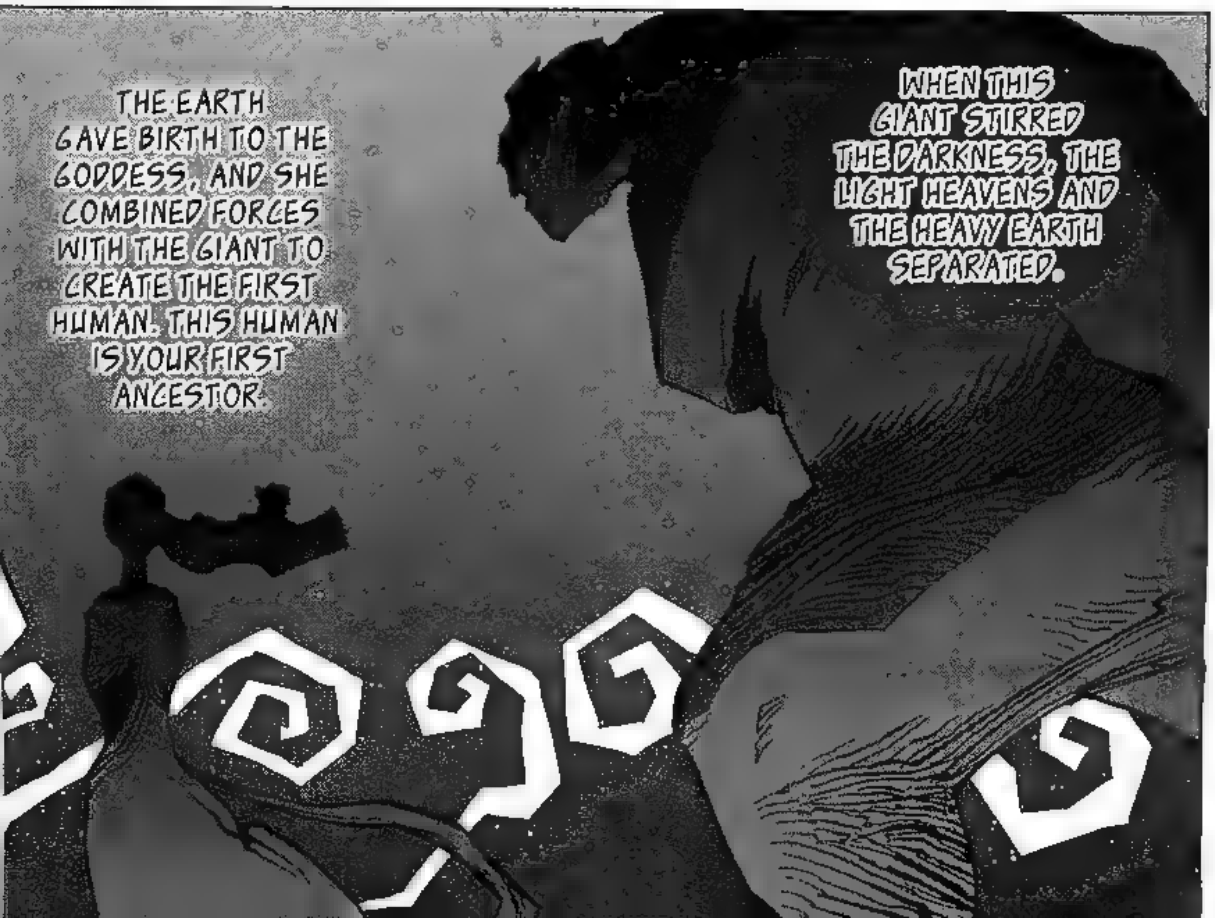
YES. THE WORLD STARTED AS A DARK WHIRLPOOL, AND A LIGHT BURST OPEN FROM IT. THAT WAS YORAM, THE GOD OF LIGHT-NING.

.....

SEE, CHAGUM?


YOU, CHAGUM, ARE FROM YOGO. THE YOGO BELIEVE THAT THEIR GOD IS A GIANT THAT EMERGED FROM THE ACCUMULATION OF THE MOST POWERFUL SPIRITS WHEN THE WORLD FORMED.
Chap

.....


THE EARTH GAVE BIRTH TO THE GODDESS, AND SHE COMBINED FORCES WITH THE GIANT TO CREATE THE FIRST HUMAN. THIS HUMAN IS YOUR FIRST ANCESTOR.
WHEN THIS GIANT STIRRED THE DARKNESS, THE LIGHT HEAVENS AND THE HEAVY EARTH SEPARATED.

.....

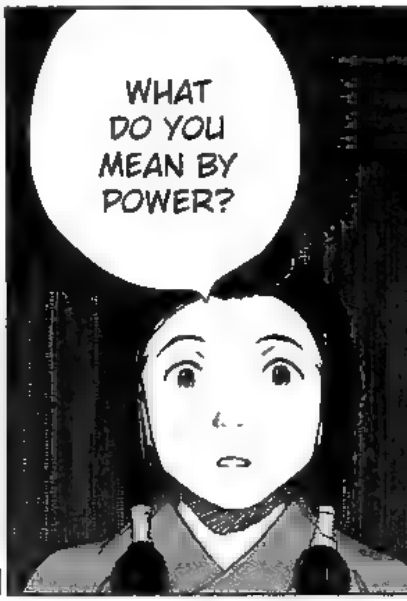
DON'T WORRY... I KNOW EACH COUNTRY TREATS THEIR OWN STORY AS THEIR LEGEND. I'M NOT MOCKING THEM.

PEOPLE FROM ALL COUNTRIES AND WALKS OF LIFE HAVE, FOR YEARS AND YEARS,
WANTED TO KNOW WHAT OUR WORLD IS, AND HOW IT CAME TO BE.

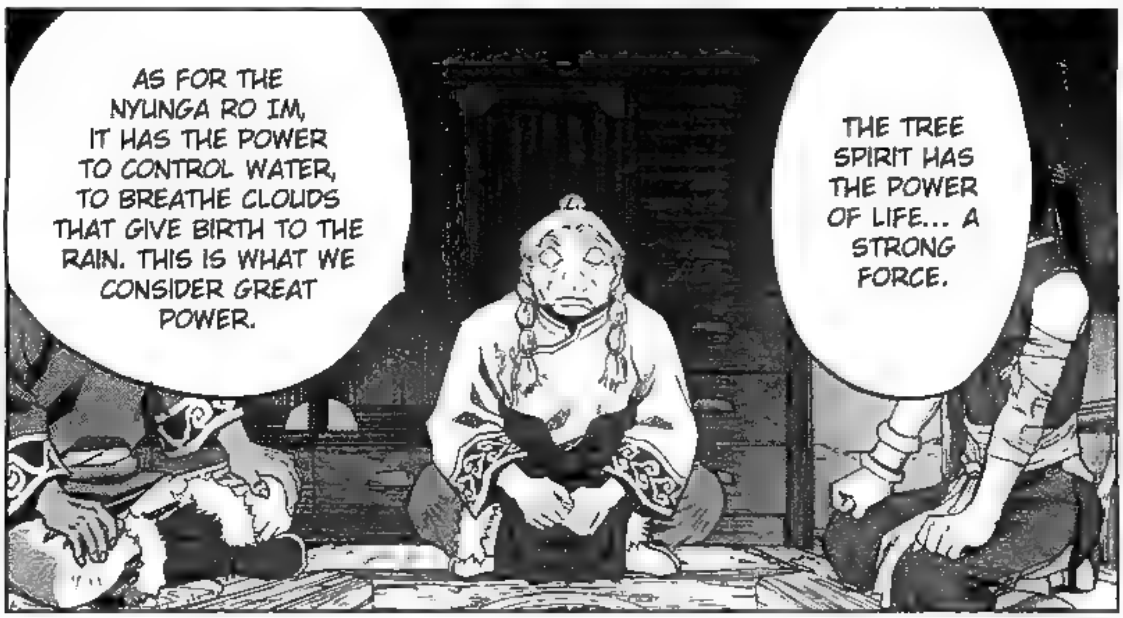
I DO NOT KNOW WHICH ONE IS CORRECT.
THE YOGO BELIEVE IN A GIANT GOD. THE YAKU BELIEVE THAT THE WORLD BEGAN FROM A WHIRLING SNAKE.
THE YOGO AND YAKU ALSO HAVE DIFFERENT BELIEFS ON WHAT SPIRITS ARE.
FOR US YAKU, THE SPIRITS ARE POWERFUL BEINGS RELATED TO WATER, EARTH, FIRE, AIR, AND WOOD.

A TREE THAT HAS EXISTED FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS ACCUMULATES A LOT OF POWER, AND IS THOUGHT OF AS A SPIRIT BY US YAKU.
EVEN IF IT STARTED OUT AS A SMALL SEEDLING THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO, IT IS CONSIDERED A SPIRIT TO US.

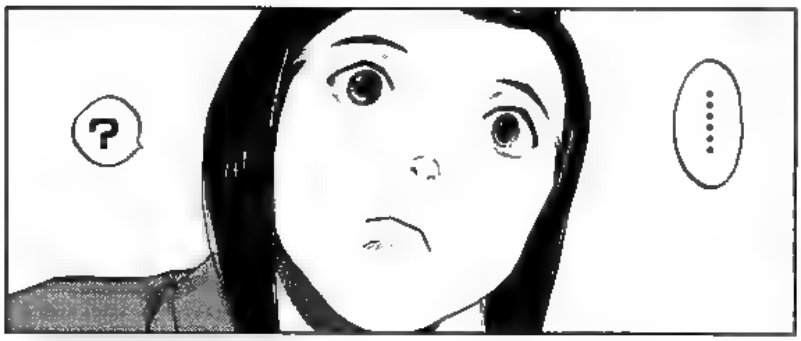
.....


WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY POWER?

THESE THINGS AREN'T EASY TO EXPLAIN...


AS FOR THE NYUNGA RO IM, IT HAS THE POWER TO CONTROL WATER, TO BREATHE CLOUDS THAT GIVE BIRTH TO THE RAIN. THIS IS WHAT WE CONSIDER GREAT POWER.
THE TREE SPIRIT HAS THE POWER OF LIFE... A STRONG FORCE.

CHAGUM, YOU REMIND ME OF TANDA 20 YEARS AGO.


?
.....

IS THIS THE KIND OF THING YOU LIKE?
I'M NOT GOOD WITH THESE COMPLICATED STORIES.

IT'S NOT THAT I LIKE IT...

IT'S THAT... IF I DON'T UNDERSTAND SOMETHING, I WON'T BE ABLE TO SETTLE DOWN UNTIL I CAN SEE IT CLEARLY.

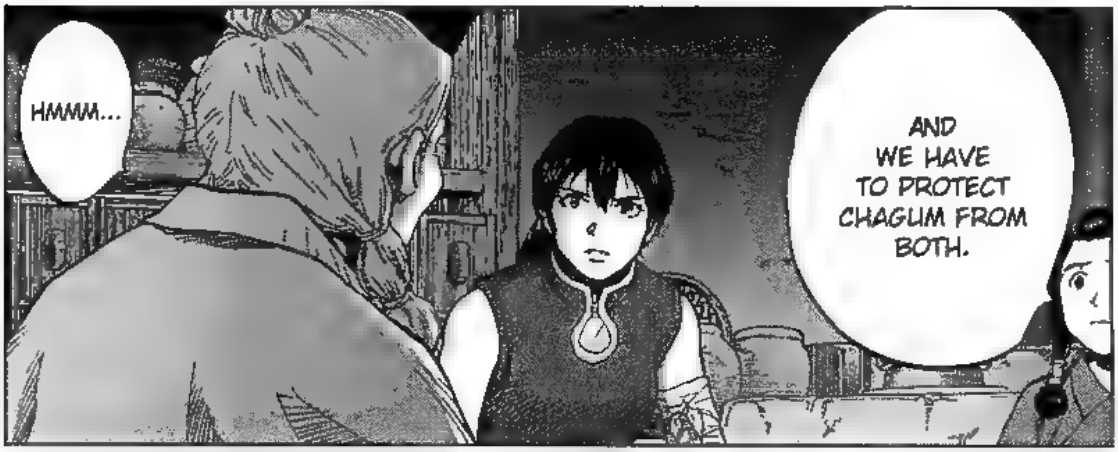
CHAGUM SOUNDS MORE LIKE A SCHOLAR THAN A PRINCE. AND IF OUR THOUGHTLESS BALSA HERE WAS A PRINCE, I'D FEEL SORRY FOR THE FATE OF THE COUNTRY.

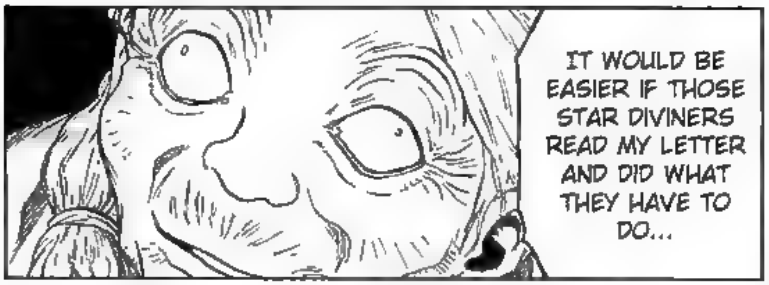
LIKE NOT THINKING BEFORE YOU SPEAK?
IT'S TERRI-BLE BEING THOUGHTLESS, ISN'T IT?

.....

HMPH!

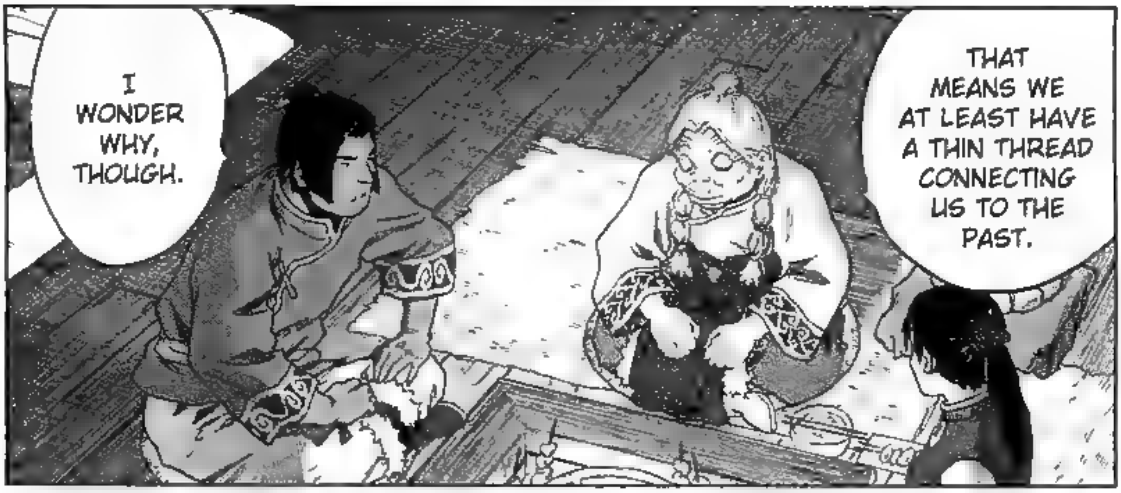
WHATEVER THE NYUNGA RO IM REALLY IS, WHAT WE KNOW IS THAT IT'S BEING CHASED AFTER BY THE LA LUNGA AND BY THE EMPEROR'S MEN.
LET'S GET BACK TO WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.


HMMM...
AND WE HAVE TO PROTECT CHAGUM FROM BOTH.


IT WOULD BE EASIER IF THOSE STAR DIVINERS READ MY LETTER AND DID WHAT THEY HAVE TO DO...

SCRATCH SCRATCH

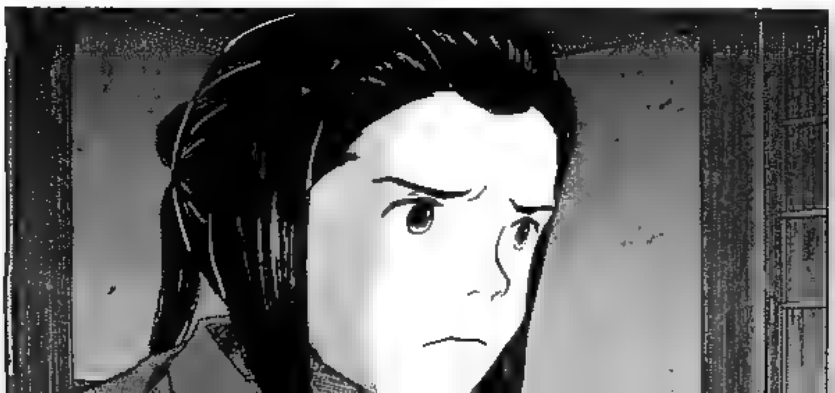
AH, BUT IT'S GOOD TO KNOW THAT THAT LITTLE GIRL IN MOUNT YASHIRO REMEMBERED THE NYUNGA RO IM.


I WONDER WHY, THOUGH.
THAT MEANS WE AT LEAST HAVE A THIN THREAD CONNECTING US TO THE PAST.

HOW COULD PEOPLE FORGET ABOUT IT SO EASILY?
THE NYUNGA RO IM DIRECTLY AFFECTS THE HARVEST OF THE WHOLE COUNTRY. IT'S VERY IMPORTANT.

FORGIVE ME FOR SAYING THIS IN FRONT OF THE PRINCE, BUT IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE OF POLITICS.

.....



THE STAR DIVINERS WILL NOT LET THEIR CITIZENS BELIEVE IN YAKU LEGENDS BECAUSE THEY WANT COMPLETE CONTROL OF EVERYTHING UNDER THE SKY.
THE NYUNGA RO IM HAS BEEN CONNECTED TO THE LEGEND OF THE FOUNDING OF THEIR COUNTRY.

ALTHOUGH SHE MISSED THE MOST IMPORTANT PART: HOW TO DEFEAT THE LA LUNGA.
BUT THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE WHO KNOW THE STORY, LIKE THAT GIRL FROM MOUNT YASHIRO.
THE STORY MIGHT NOT BE COMPLETE, BUT A LOT OF IMPORTANT INFORMATION WAS STILL PASSED ON LIKE A THIN THREAD

SLIPPING THROUGH THE EYES OF THE GENERALS.

DO THE SAGES AT THE STAR PALACE REALLY DECEIVE OUR CITIZENS LIKE THAT? HOW CAN THEY DO THAT?
IS IT TRUE ...?

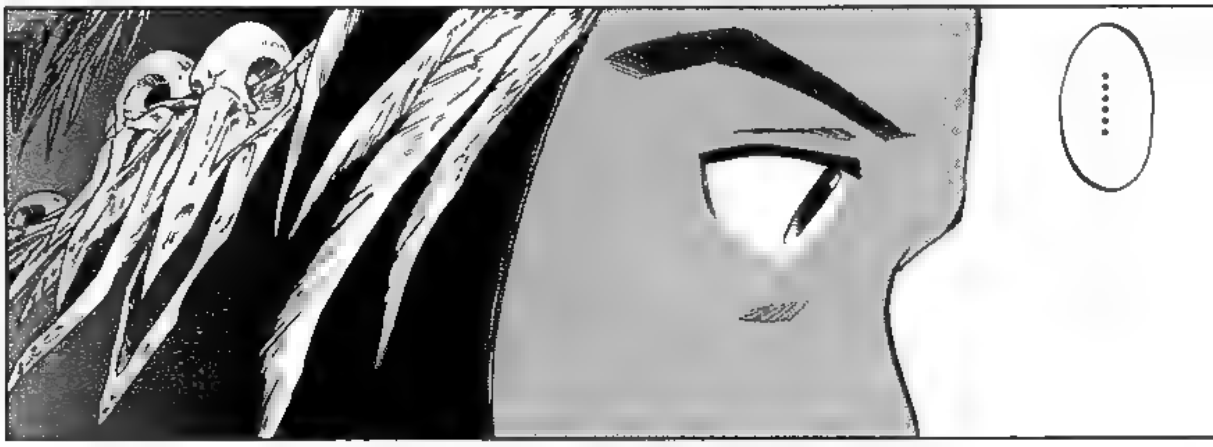
THROUGH THE MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL, FOR ONE.

!

AT LEAST THAT WAS WHAT THEY SAID...
THE MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL... THAT'S THE FESTIVAL THAT CELEBRATES HOW YOUR ANCESTORS DEFEATED THE WATER DEMON AND PURIFIED THIS LAND.

I BELIEVE IT WAS ALSO THE FESTIVAL WHERE THEY SHARE KNOWLEDGE ON HOW THE NYUNGA RO IM CAN SAFELY HATCH.
FOR THE YAKU, IT IS A FESTI-VAL TO PRAY FOR A GOOD HARVEST.
.....
WHIFF
BUT NOW, THE FESTIVAL HAS TURNED INTO AN EVENT TO GIVE PRAISE TO EMPEROR TORGAL'S EXPLOITS.
AFTER ALL, THE EGG ALWAYS HATCHES IN THE MIDSUMMER.

IT HAS COME TO THE POINT WHERE EVEN SHAMANS LIKE ME DO NOT EVEN HAVE A WAY OF KNOWING WHAT THE ORIGINAL FESTIVAL WAS LIKE.
AND NOW...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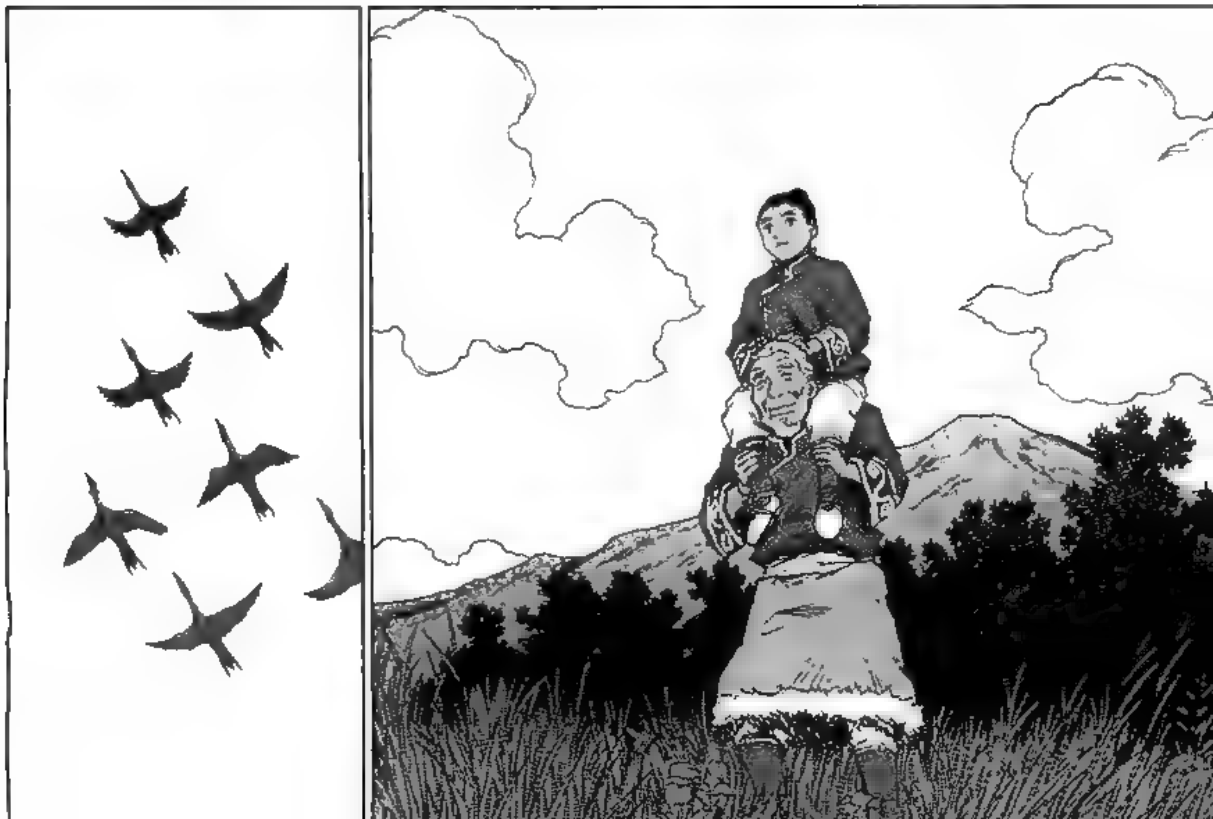
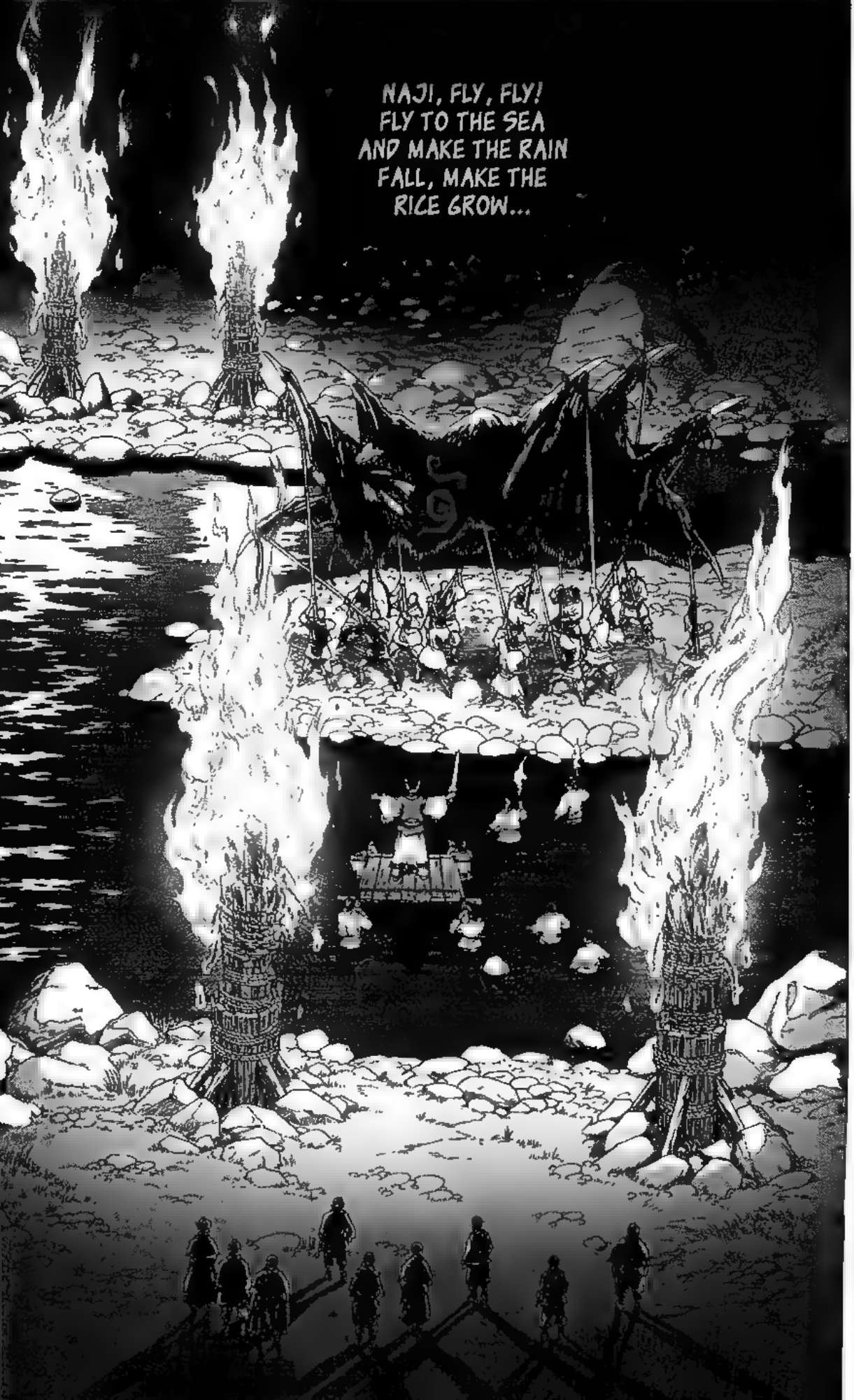
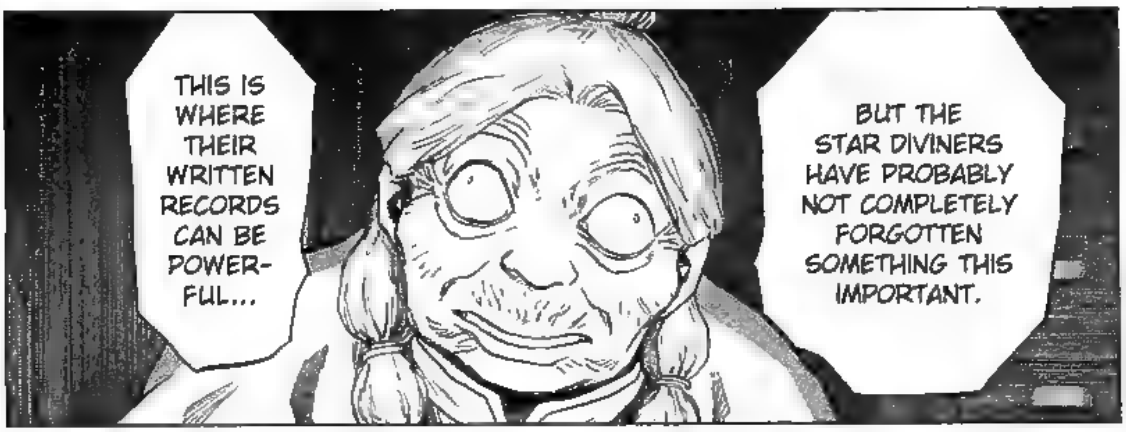



NAJI, FLY, FLY!
FLY TO THE SEA
AND MAKE THE RAIN
FALL, MAKE THE
RICE GROW...

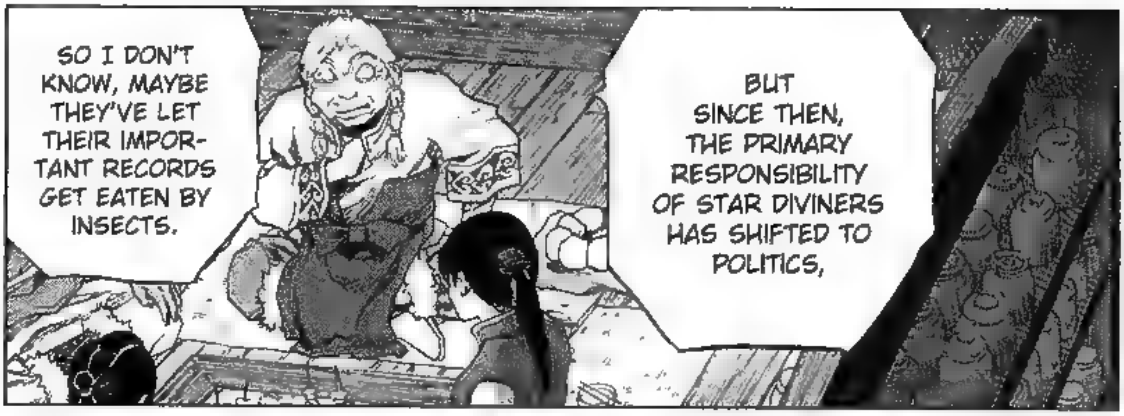
.....

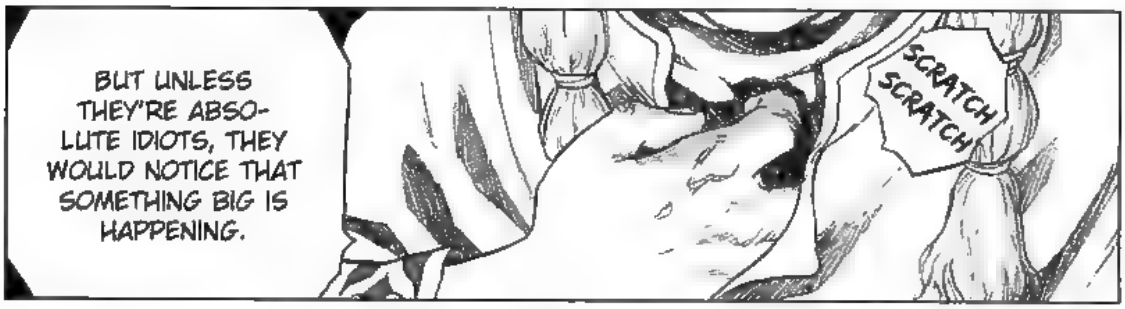

THIS IS WHERE THEIR WRITTEN RECORDS CAN BE POWER-FUL...
BUT THE STAR DIVINERS HAVE PROBABLY NOT COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN SOMETHING THIS IMPORTANT.

THEN IT'S GOING TO BE WRITTEN IN THE RECORDS OF THE STAR DIVINERS.
IF THE KNOWLEDGE OF HOW TO DEFEAT THE LA LUNGA HAS BEEN PASSED ON...

...

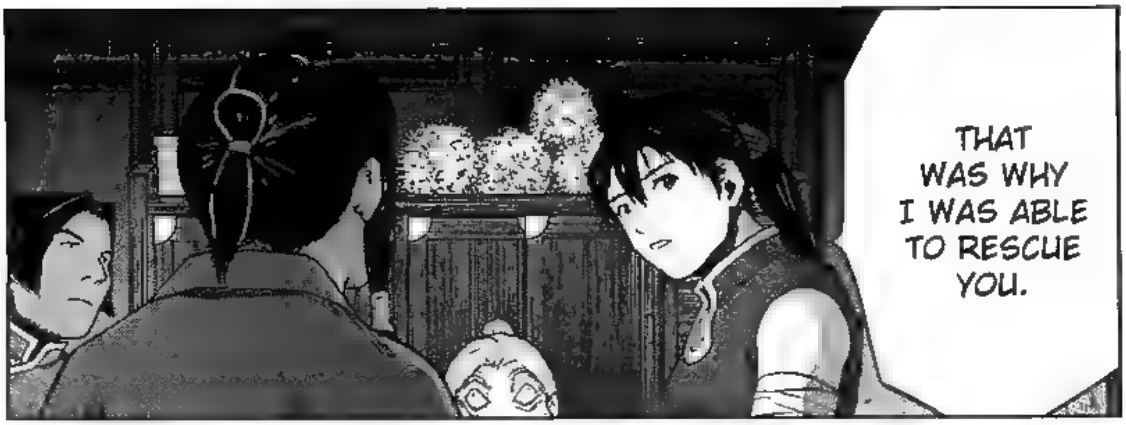
BUT NOW IT'S GONE...
I THINK... SOMETHING IMPORTANT JUST FLASHED IN MY MIND...

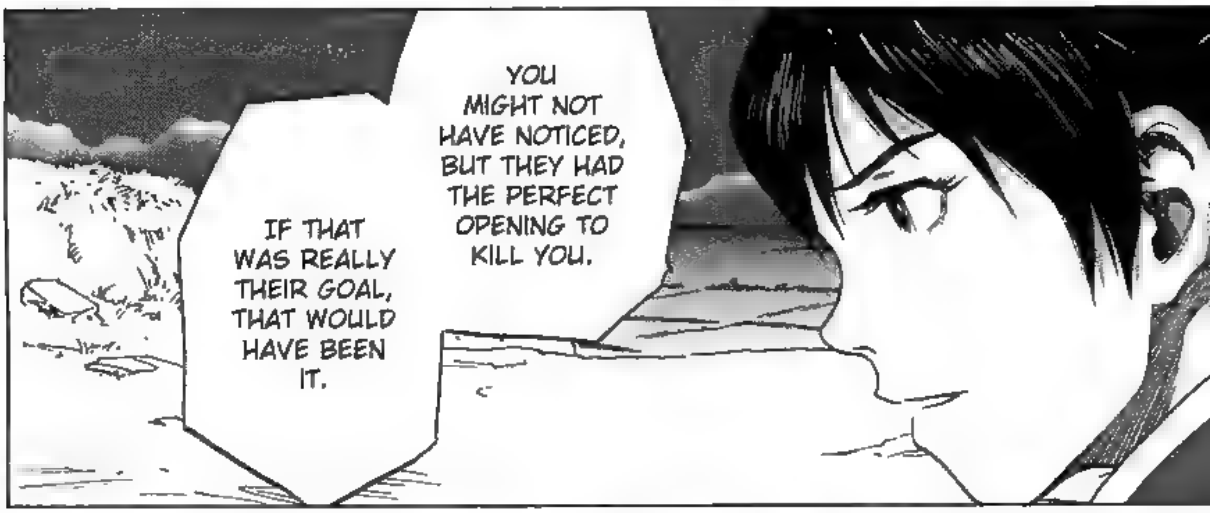

SO I DON'T KNOW, MAYBE THEY'VE LET THEIR IMPORTANT RECORDS GET EATEN BY INSECTS.
BUT SINCE THEN, THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY OF STAR DIVINERS HAS SHIFTED TO POLITICS,


BUT UNLESS THEY'RE ABSOLUTE IDIOTS, THEY WOULD NOTICE THAT SOMETHING BIG IS HAPPENING.
SCRATCH SCRATCH

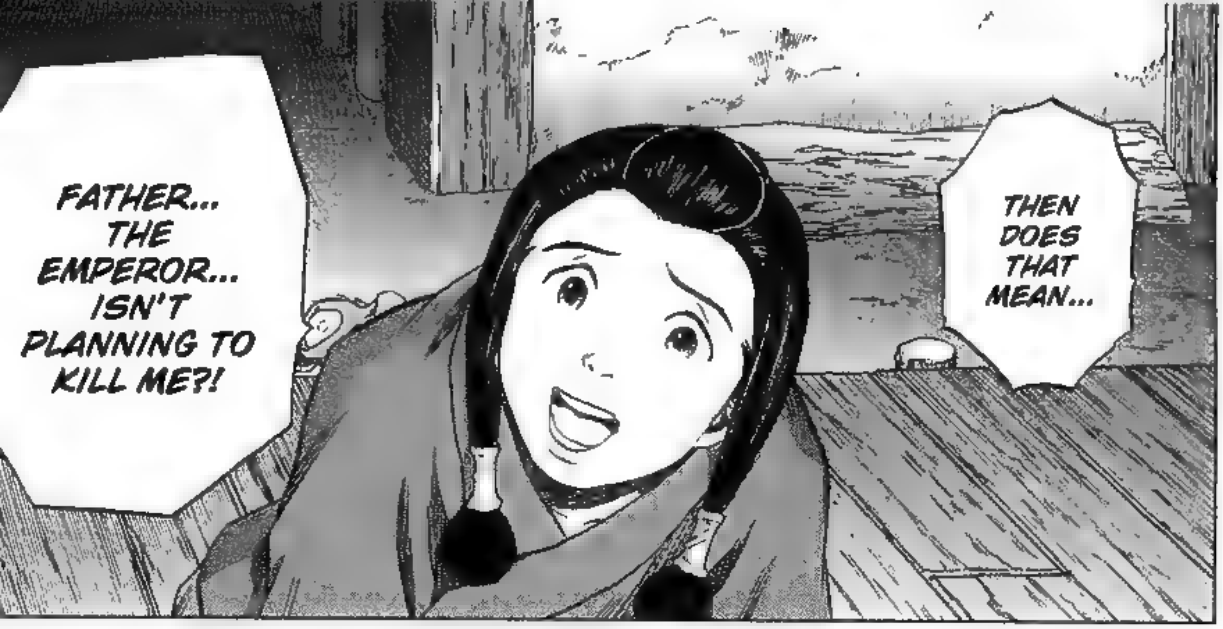
.....
THEY WON'T KILL THE PRINCE JUST LIKE THAT...

HUH?
YES. EVEN WHEN THEY WERE CHASING US, IT DIDN'T LOOK LIKE THEY WERE SET TO KILL CHAGUM.


THAT WAS WHY I WAS ABLE TO RESCUE YOU.


YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE NOTICED, BUT THEY HAD THE PERFECT OPENING TO KILL YOU.
IF THAT WAS REALLY THEIR GOAL, THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN IT.

SO I RAN AWAY, GOT THEM TO SPLIT UP, AND CAME BACK FOR YOU WHEN THERE WAS ONLY ONE PERSON LEFT WITH YOU.
BUT THEY CHANGED POSITIONS SO YOU WOULDN'T GET HURT, AND THEY ATTACKED ME INSTEAD.


FATHER... THE EMPEROR... ISN'T PLANNING TO KILL ME?!
THEN DOES THAT MEAN...

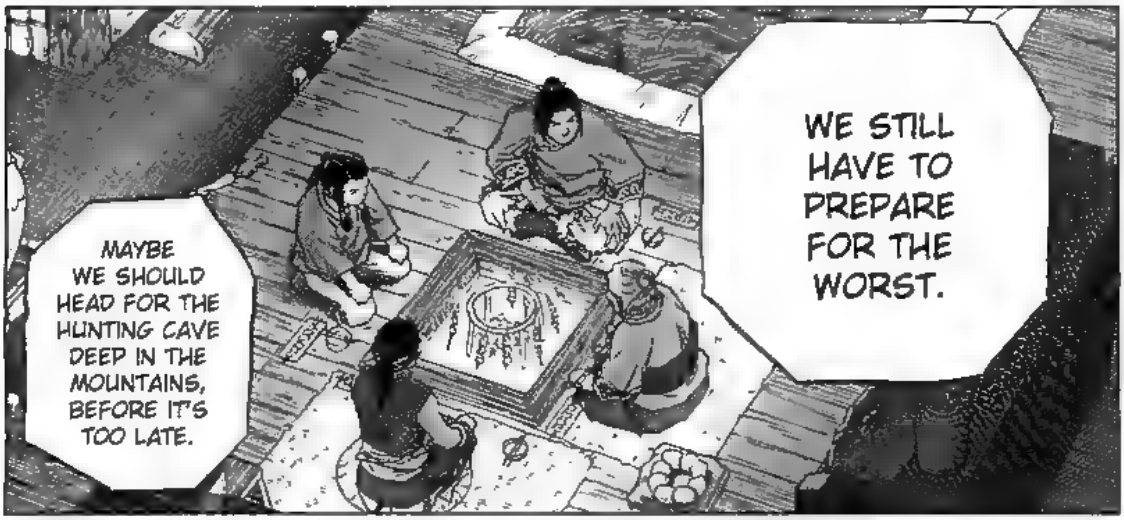
.....
NYA...

KILLING YOU WOULD BE THE VERY LAST RESORT. BUT YOU CAN'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN.
THE EMPEROR ISN'T JUST ONE PERSON. HE HAS TO PUT THE SAFETY OF THE COUNTRY BEFORE HIS OWN PERSONAL FEELINGS.
SO DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN ...

O... OF COURSE HE WOULDN'T WANT YOU KILLED IF HE CAN HELP IT...

.....

.....


MAYBE WE SHOULD HEAD FOR THE HUNTING CAVE DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS, BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.
WE STILL HAVE TO PREPARE FOR THE WORST.

ALL THE MORE REASON WE SHOULD HURRY.
SNOW HAS STARTED TO FALL IN THE MOUNTAINS...

IN THE MEANTIME, BALSA, YOU CAN CHECK FOR ANIMALS CAUGHT IN THE TRAPS I SET UP AND SMOKE THEM.
FIRST I HAVE TO BUY SOME SUPPLIES IN TOWN TOMORROW MORNING.

!
IT'S STRANGE...

I KNOW I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T BE, GIVEN THE CIRCUM-STANCES, BUT I'M PRETTY EXCITED ABOUT THIS...

IT'S LIKE FATE IS PULLING EVERYONE TOGETHER...

EVEN THOUGH ALL I EVER DID THERE EVERY DAY WAS TRAIN, AND I DON'T HAVE ANY FOND MEMORIES OF THAT PLACE IN PARTICULAR,
JUST THE FACT THAT WE ALL LIVED THERE TOGETHER MADE ME HAPPY.

BALSA
...
IT'S LIKE I'M SPENDING TIME WITH FAMILY AGAIN AFTER A LONG TIME...

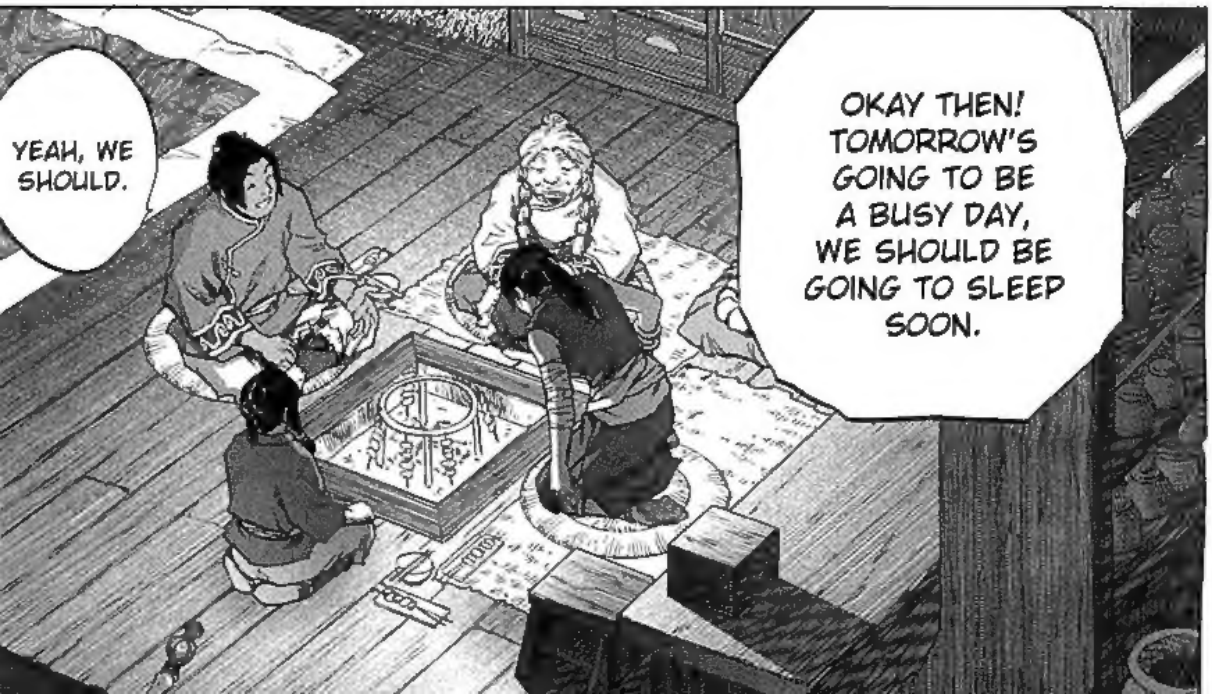
WHAT A STUPID THING TO SAY...
HMPH!

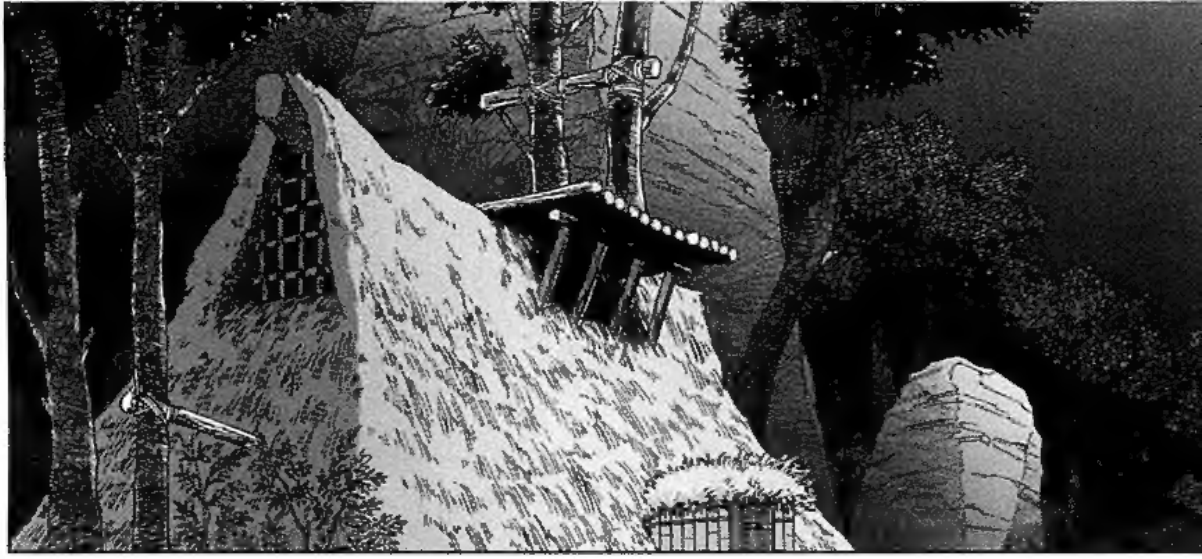
THEN YOU CAN BE AN ACTUAL FAMILY.
MASTER
...
WELL, WHY DON'T YOU BOTH JUST DROP YOUR BORING PREOCCUPATIONS AND STAY TOGETHER?!

HEHEHE, THEN YOU'LL END UP BEING LIKE ME!!
HAHA HAHA!
SH... SHH!
.....
HM?
!

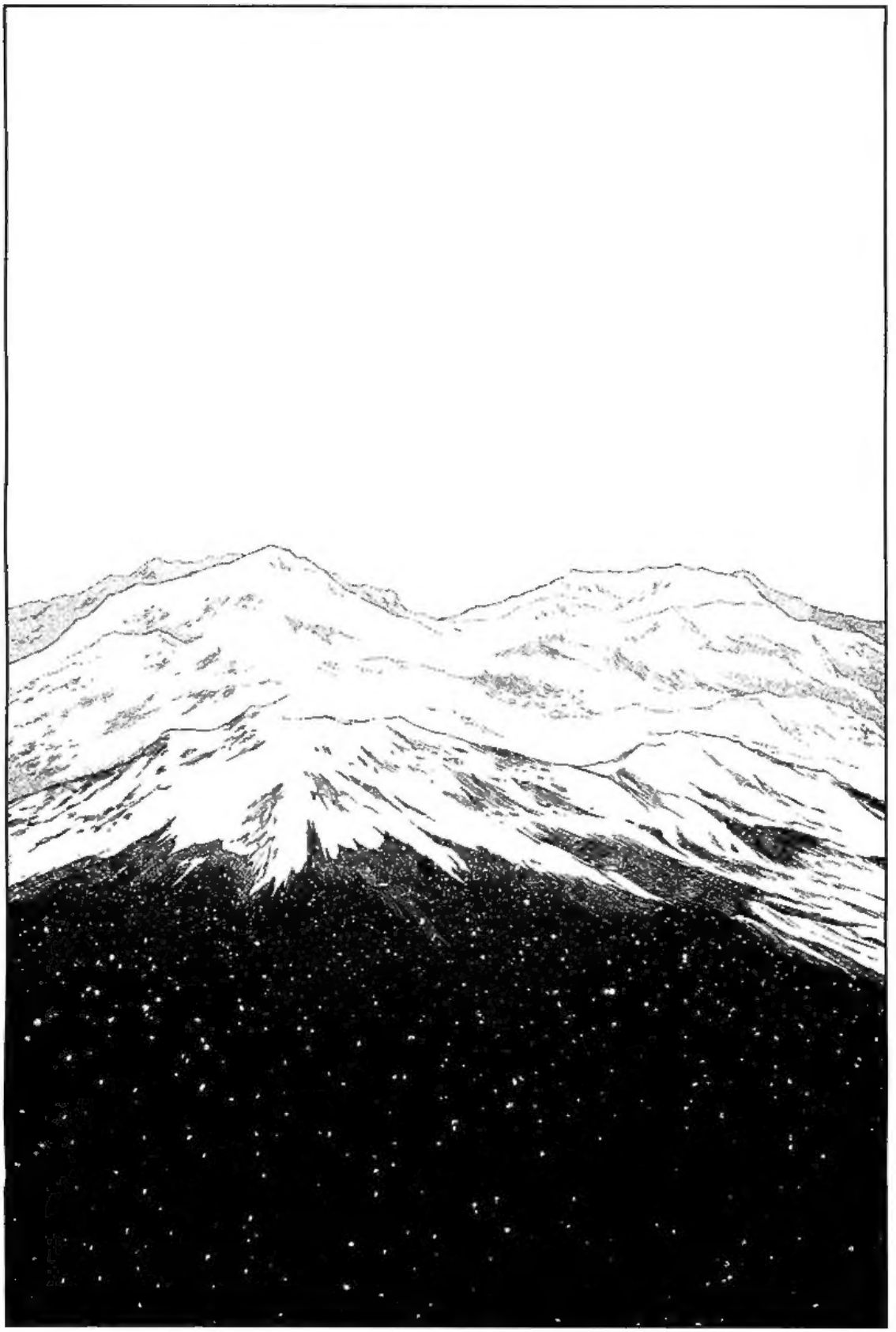
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...
WHAT ARE YOU BOYS GETTING SECRETIVE ABOUT?

RIGHT ...
RIGHT, CHAGUM?
IT'S NOTH-ING...


YEAH, WE SHOULD.
OKAY THEN! TOMORROW'S GOING TO BE A BUSY DAY, WE SHOULD BE GOING TO SLEEP SOON.



SEE YOU LATER, THEN!



SEIREI NO MORIBITO 2 END